

[illegible]

wherein the system is operative to:

10 (b) communicate the data representing the identified annotation images to each workstation to permit an annotation entered at a first workstation to be distributed to other workstations for display.

3. A system according to claim 1, wherein the capture device at least one workstation comprises a camera.

20 (a) information representing the annotation as a bitmap; and

(b) information indicating the location of the annotation in a o

6. A system according to claim 4, wherein the object further  
25 comprises information representing at least one of a time and date associated  
with the annotation.

8

8. A system according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the workstations is operative to display annotations in a plurality of different colors, the color being indicative of the origin of the annotation.

5 9. A system according to claim 1, wherein each workstation is operative to identify handwritten annotations.

10. A system according to claim 1, wherein the base computer is operative to identify handwritten annotations.

11. In a method for distributing annotations made at one workstation of a collaborative annotation system to other workstations in the system for display, the improvement comprising:

(a) capturing a digital image of an document;

(b) identifying a portion of the image corresponding to a handwritten annotation in the document; and

15 (c) distributing data representing the handwritten annotation to said other workstations for display.

12. A method for permitting collaborative annotation of a document in a system which comprises:

a plurality of workstations each comprising a computer processor, a display, and a capture device for capturing a digital image of a document; and

20 a base computer communicating with the plurality of workstations;

wherein the method comprises:

(a) identifying handwritten annotations in images of documents captured at each workstation; and

25 (b) communicating the data representing the identified annotation images to each workstation to permit an annotation entered at a first workstation to be distributed to other workstations for display.

13. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of identifying a new annotation made at a workstation, and updating the distribution of annotations to other workstations.

14. A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of capturing an image at at least one workstation using a camera device.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein identified annotations are stored as annotation objects comprising:

- 5           (a) information representing the annotation as a bitmap; and  
            (b) information indicating the location of the annotation in a document.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the object further comprises information representing the origin of the annotation.

10           17. A method according to claim 15, wherein the object further comprises information representing at least one of a time and date associated with the annotation.

18. A method according to claim 15, wherein the object further comprises information representing the identity of the document with which the annotation is associated.

15           19. A method according to claim 12, further comprising selectively displaying, at a workstation, a plurality of annotations originating from at least two different other workstations.

20           20. A method according to claim 19, each annotation is displayed in a color indicative of the origin of the annotation.